

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 02018 101755Z
ACTION NEA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 2018

FOR NEA/ARN DRAPER FROM TEAM

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MORG LE
SUBJ: MATERIAL AND AMMO STATUS UPDATE

REF: (A) BEIRUT 1970, (B) STATE 090973 (NOTAL)

1. AFTER ASCERTAINING FROM CPT NEHME THAT ALL 5000 M-16'S IN FIRST TRANCHE WERE, IN FACT, DELIVERED, SURVEY TEAM RECHECKED SMALL ARMS INVENTORY FIGURES (10,437 OF ALL RIFLE TYPES) PROVIDED IN BRIEFING BY LAF G4 ON 7 APRIL. WHILE IT STILL NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR, LAF STAFF OFFICERS INDICATE THAT TOTAL QUOTED ABOVE IS UNISSUED ASSETS. REMAINING 2579 M-16'S NOW IN HANDS OF TROOPS IN TWO NEW DEFENSE BATTALIONS, UNIT AT HENRI CHEHAB KASERNE AND, IN SMALL NUMBERS, IN SOME UNITS OF BEQAA - ASSIGNED 1ST INFANTRY BRIGADE. THOUGH OUR MATH MAY STILL BE DEFECTIVE, NEW ALL INCLUSIVE TOTAL APPEARS TO APPROXIMATE 13,000 FIGURE REPORTED BY BEIRUT EARLIER.

2. DEPARTMENT MADE AWARE EARLIER OF PENDING DEAL FOR SOME 12,000 GERMAN G3 ASSAULT RIFLES. LAF COULD NOT GIVE FIRM DATES FOR DELIVERY OF THESE WEAPONS ALTHOUGH IT CLEAR THEY ARE EXPECTED QUOTE SOON UNQUOTE. NOTWITHSTANDING THE FOREGOING, TOTAL OF INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS NOW AVAILABLE TO LAF CONSISTS HEAVILY OF MIXED BAG
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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 02018 101755Z

OF OBSOLESCEMENT/OBSELETE RIFLES OF INEFFICIENTLY NUMEROUS CALIBERS.

3. TEAM BORED IN ON AMMUNITION STOCKS AVAILABLE IN FIELD DURING TODAY'S VISIT WITH BEQAA MILITARY REGION. AS INDICATED REF A, STOCKS REPORTED ARE THOSE AVAIL IN DEPOTS (ACTUALLY DEPOT AS ONLY ONE REMAINS OPERATIONAL). STOCKS, IF THEY CAN BE CALLED THAT, MAINTAINED BY BRIGADE IN BEQAA ARE MINIMAL. UNITS HAVE 18 SALA-

DINS DELIVERED BY JORDAN, BUT NO MAIN GUN AMMUNITION AT ALL. WHILE 120 MM MORTARS AUTHORIZED, NONE, REPEAT NONE ON HAND, HENCE NO AMMO IN THAT CALIBRE. THREE 81 MM MORTARS HELD BY BRIGADE (ONE PER INFANTRY BATTALION) BUT NO REPEAT NO AMMUNITION. FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION HAS EIGHT 122 MM GUN/HOWITZERS WITH ABOUT 400 ROUNDS. SYRIA HAS REPORTEDLY QUOTE DECLINED UNQUOTE TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL. LAF STAFF REPORTS SOME, THUS FAR INCONCLUSIVE NEGOTIATIONS IN TRAIN WITH YUGOSLAVIA FOR 122 MM AMMUNITION. BRIGADE HAS SOME RIFLE AND MACHINEGUN AMMUNITION ON HAND. MOST SUBSTANTIAL QUANTITY IN 54,000 ROUNDS FOR LIGHT MACHINEGUNS (M1918 .30 CAL BROWNING) INSTALLED ON JORDANIAN ARMORED AND SCOUT CARS. ABOUT 13,000 ROUNDS AVAILABLE (ADDITIONAL TO 200,000 STORED ROUNDS REPORTED REF A) FOR A FEW .50 CAL MACHINEGUNS.

4. TEN 81 MM MORTARS AND 8000 ROUNDS AMMUNITION ARE ON HIGH SEAS WITH ARRIVAL BEIRUT QUOTE IMMINENT UNQUOTE. SAME SHIPLOAD REPORTEDLY INCLUDES SOME JEEPS AND 2 1/2 TON TRUCKS BOUGHT WITH LAST FALL'S \$25 MILLION.

5. IN MATTER OF TROOP ASSETS BEING EARMARKED FOR SOUTHWARD MOVE, PROVISIONAL BRIGADE IN EMBRYONIC STAGES OF FORMATION IN ABLAH/RAYAK AREA. SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT THIS UNIT NOT REPEAT NOT PART OF 1ST INFANTRY BRIGADE, THE ASSIGNED BRIGADE OF BEQAA MILITARY REGION. TWO RUDIMENTARY INFANTRY BATTALIONS COMPRISING, ALL TOLD, PERHAPS 700 TROOPS ARE TO MOVE IN FROM BEIRUT AREA (TRIPOLI ALSO MENTIONED) QUOTE BEGINNING THIS WEEK
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PAGE 03 BEIRUT 02018 101755Z

UNQUOTE. ITS MADE ABUNDANTLY CLEAR TROOPS WILL ARRIVE WITH PRACTICALLY NO EQUIPMENT. UPON ARRIVAL IN BEQAA THEY WILL BE ISSUED M-16'S FROM REMAINING DEPOT STOCKS. IT ALSO INDICATED THAT UNITS WOULD RECEIVE QUOTE FIRST PRIORITY UNQUOTE FOR OTHER EQUIPMENT. IT CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT SO CALLED FIRST PRIORITY DOES NOT INCLUDE STRIPPING NEW DEFENSE BATTALIONS OR MUSLIM UNITS AT HENRI CHEHAB KASERNEX OR CHRISTIAN ELEMENTS IN MT LEBANON MILITARY REGION. THUS SOURCES OF REQUIRED ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT APPEAR PROBLEMATIC. ON PLUS SIDE, IT FIRMLY STATED THAT NEW BRIGADE WILL BE CONFESSIONALLY MIXED AT ALL LEVELS. ONE FINAL POINT ADDED TO AVOID FURTHER CONFUSING AN ALREADY CONFUSED SITUATION. THE 700 MAN FORCE DISCUSSED ABOVE IS SEPARATE AND DISTINCT FROM THE THREE COMPANY SIZED UNITS WHICH BG KHOURY PLANS TO DISPATCH TO LITANI AREA TO SERVE WITH UNIFIL AS ADVANCE GUARD LEBANESE PRESENCE IN SOUTH. PARKER

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